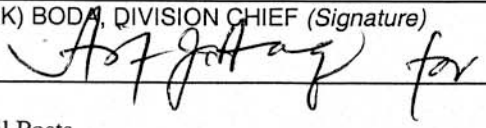


TRAFFIC OPERATIONS POLICY DIRECTIVE		NUMBER 03-01	PAGE 1 OF 3
JOHN A. (JACK) BODA, DIVISION CHIEF (Signature) 		DATE ISSUED 02/10/03	EFFECTIVE DATE 02/10/03
SUBJECT Steel Guardrail Posts		DISTRIBUTION <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All District Directors <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All Deputy District Directors - Traffic Operations <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All Deputy District Directors - Maintenance <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All Deputy District Directors - Construction <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All Deputy District Directors - Project Development <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All Deputy District Directors - Transportation Planning <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chief, Division of Engineering Services <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chief Counsel, Legal Division <input type="checkbox"/> Publications (for Distribution to all holders of Traffic Manual) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Headquarters Division Chiefs for: All Divisions	
DOES THIS DIRECTIVE AFFECT OR SUPERSEDE ANOTHER DOCUMENT? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO		IF YES, DESCRIBE	
WILL THIS DIRECTIVE BE INCORPORATED IN THE TRAFFIC MANUAL? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO		IF YES, DESCRIBE	

DIRECTIVE

All new and replacement guardrail shall be specified with steel posts if the surrounding environment contains potential fuel for wildfires. Guardrail in paved roadside areas with no proximate fuel sources may use wood or steel posts. However, guardrail post type should be consistent in a single installation or run. This policy directive does not apply to rail end treatments and transitions.

POLICY DIRECTIVE

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IMPLEMENTATION

Projects in the Project Initiation Document (PID) stage shall consider steel posts in fire prone areas.

Any questions regarding whether or not an area should be considered fire prone may be directed to the district Maintenance Engineer.

☒ If checked, see continuation page(s).

BACKGROUND

Metal beam guardrail (MBGR) with wood posts are destroyed or damaged by fire if the MBGR is in proximity to fire prone areas (areas with flammable vegetation such as annual grasses, chaparral, manzanita, pine, fir, eucalyptus, scrub oak, juniper, California sagebrush and others). Wood posts have the following disadvantages:

- The MBGR is impaired during the period between the fire and its replacement.
- After a fire, fire prone areas renew their fuel loads in five to 15 years (depending on species). This puts replacement wood posts at risk for repeated losses.
- Wildfires occur every year in California and have incurred repeated emergency expenditures from Maintenance and capital to replace burned MBGR.
- Placing wood posts in fire prone areas adds to the area's total fuel load.
- Disposal of wood posts is becoming increasingly difficult due to the presence of wood preservative chemicals.

Use of steel posts will alleviate these problems.

☒ If checked, see continuation page(s).

DEFINITIONS

When used in this Traffic Operations Policy Directive, the text shall be defined as follows:

- 1) **Standard** - a statement of required, mandatory, or specifically prohibited practice. All standards text appears in **bold** type. The verb **shall** is typically used. Standards are sometimes modified by Options.
- 2) Guidance - a statement of recommended, but not mandatory, practice in typical situations, with deviations allowed if engineering judgement or engineering study indicates the deviation to be appropriate. All Guidance statements text appears in underlined type. The verb should is typically used. Guidance statements are sometimes modified by Options.
- 3) Option - a statement of practice that is a permissive condition and carries no requirement or recommendation. Options may contain allowable modifications to a Standard or Guidance. All Option statements text appears in normal type. The verb may is typically used.
- 4) Support - an informational statement that does not convey any degree of mandate, recommendation, authorization, prohibition, or enforceable condition. Support statements text appears in normal type. The verbs shall, should and may are not used in Support statements.

ATTACHMENTS

None.
